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WASHINGTON STAR

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Soviet Union, Britain Swap Two Spies at Berlin Border

LONDON, April 22 (AP). — A

Royal Air Force plane brought Maynard Greville Wynne home from a Moscow prison today in a trade for Soviet spy Gordon Lonsdale.

The exchange was made at the Heerstrasse crossing point between the British sector of West Berlin and East Germany at 5:35 a.m. (11:35 p.m. Tuesday, EST).

The British Foreign Office said it agreed to the exchange because Mr. Wynne was ill.

The once-chubby Mr. Wynne, who had lost a great deal of weight, said the swap for Lonsdale "came as a great surprise" to him.

Mr. Wynne had been in Communist hands for two years and five months. He was sentenced in Moscow last May to eight years' detention—three in prison and five in a labor camp—as a courier of espionage information.

"I only got the news yesterday, when I was sitting in my cell in Moscow," Mr. Wynne told newsmen.

Asked how he felt, Mr. Wynne replied:

"I feel as I look, gentlemen. He looked thin and tired.

"I got three meals a day in prison," he continued, "but I found the food very difficult. I wasn't accustomed to it.

"I haven't really collected my thoughts yet. I am overwhelmed. I want to get back to normal life as soon as possible."

Mr. Wynne's wife, Sheila, awaited him in their London home. She denied he was ill.

Lonsdale, 40, was sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment in 1961 as the mastermind of a spy ring operating at the Portland naval research establishment.

The Foreign Office said the Soviet Union proposed on April 7 to pardon Mr. Wynne if the British would free Lonsdale.



MAYNARD G. WYNNE



GORDON LONSDALE

—AP Wirephotos

"Her Majesty's government have recently learned that Mr. Wynne's physical condition has seriously deteriorated," the announcement said.

"Without prejudice to the views which they had previously expressed about the procedure followed with regard to Mr. Wynne's arrest and trial and to the guilt of Lonsdale, they considered that in his exceptional case humanitarian motives should predominate."

Shortly after 5 a.m., a sedan carrying Lonsdale and three British security officers drove slowly toward the border, informants said.

At the same time, another car with Soviet license plates drove into the East German control point.

The Soviet and British cars stopped near each other on East German territory. Lonsdale and Wynne stepped out simultaneously.

Reds Speed Away

As soon as Lonsdale had entered the Soviet car, it sped away and left Soviet officials behind to exchange baggage.

Wynne was on a business trip in Budapest in November, 1962, when he was arrested by Hungarian secret police. He was tried in Moscow with Oleg Penkovsky, a Soviet official charged with selling atomic secrets to the West. Penkovsky was executed.

Wynne testified before the Soviet military court that the British Intelligence Service had duped him into serving as a courier. He said that for six months he never knew what was in the packages he gave to and received from Penkovsky.

Testimony at Lonsdale's trial revealed that he had penetrated the British underwater naval research operation at Portland.

Convicted with him were two Americans, Peter Kroger, 50, and his wife Helen, 47. They were later identified as Morris and Lona Cohen.

The Cohens, who operated a powerful short-wave radio station for Soviet intelligence, were sentenced to 20 years each.

Two Britons, Harry Houghton, a 56-year-old Admiralty clerk, and his fiancée, Ethel Gee, 46, both received 15 years for their part in Lonsdale's ring.

Real Name Established

Attorney General Kennedy announced in 1961 that FBI investigators had established Lonsdale's real name as Konon Trofimovich Molody. The FBI gave these background details: Molody went to the United States as a boy with his aunt in 1933. He lived with her in Berkeley, Calif., until his return to the Soviet Union about 1938.

He was believed to have served in the Red army before drawing a spy assignment.

He went to Canada in 1954, obtaining a passport and birth certificate in the name of Gordon Arnold Lonsdale. He sailed from New York for England in March, 1955, and was arrested by the British in January, 1961, along with the Cohens.